

January 7, 1975

Mr. Tim Gorski
Canaday A43
Harvard Yard
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

Dear Mr. Gorski:

Thanks for your inquiries for more information about the sarc gene. I am enclosing preprints of manuscripts soon to appear in Journal of Molecular Biology and Nature; I hope these will prove useful. Unfortunately I cannot tell you much about what promises to be the most interesting aspect---namely the regulation of the sarc-like gene in uninfected avian cells. The gene is transcribed in cells derived from methylcholathrene-induced tumors from quail, but the import of that observation may be dampened by our finding transcription of the sarc gene in normal embryos from several birds and in cultured fibroblasts; in addition, we have not yet been able to test the tumors from which the tumor cells derived. Perhaps the sarc gene is involved, in some as yet unknown way, with normal growth and development and with malignancy as well. But such an extravagant claim must await further surveys of cells and tissues for expression of the gene. It would, of course, also be nice to know what the gene product is---but this is totally unknown for either the viral or cellular sarc genes.

If you see Ptashne in person as well as on tape (O brave new world), give him my blessings. Let me know if I can be of further help to you. Incidentally, I will probably be talking about this business at the Cell Biology meetings in Boston the 2nd week in September. If you're in town then, I would be glad to bring you up to date.

Sincerely yours,

Harold E. Varmus, M. D.
Associate Professor
Department of Microbiology

HEV/es

Encls.